CLAIMS

1. Use of PTX3 or one of its functional derivatives for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of bone or cartilage diseases.

2. Use of PTX3 or one of its functional derivatives, in combination with TSG-6, for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of bone or cartilage diseases.

3. Use of PTX3, or one of its functional derivatives, in combination with TSG-6, for the preparation of a medicament useful for improving fertility in women who need it.

4. Use according to claims 1-3, in which what is meant by PTX3 is any long pentraxin PTX3, that is to say, irrespective of its natural (human or animal), recombinant or synthetic origin.

5. Use according to claims 1-4, in which what is meant by derivative is a functional analogue of long pentraxin PTX3 bearing one or more mutations, deletions, insertions, or post-transductional modifications and conserving the functional ability to bind TSG-6.

6. Use according to claim 6, in which the long pentraxin PTX3 is human long pentraxin PTX3.

7. Use according to claim 1 or 2, in which said diseases are selected from the group consisting of: osteoarthritis; osteoarthrosis; degenerative diseases of the joints; collagen deficiencies; cartilage or bone diseases characterised by endochondrial ossifications: primary arthritis, including, for example, rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile arthritis, undifferentiated chronic arthritis, and polyarthritis; secondary arthritis of autoimmune origin, including, for example, systemic lupus erythematosus arthritis, psoriasic arthritis, Crohn's disease arthritis; arthritis of dysmetabolic origin, including, for

example, monosodium urate arthropathy, pyrophosphate arthropathy, calcium oxalate arthropathy; infectious arthritis, arthritis due to osteoporosis, aseptic osteonecrosis, benign and malignant bone tumours.

8. Combination comprising PTX3 or one of its derivatives and TSG-6.

9. Use of the combination according to claim 8 as a medicament.

10. Pharmaceutical composition containing as its active ingredient the combination according to claim 8 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and/or diluent.